

## Preface

The Public Relations Center (PRC) was established at the headquarters of National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ) in 1998 to disseminate astronomical information to the public. In April 2008, the Archive Office began as one of the PRC's offices for preserving NAOJ historical items. From 2010 the Archive Office received President's discretion budget of National Institute of Natural Sciences (NINS), the upper organization of NAOJ, to establish an international hub for scientific research. During the six years the archive office spent their efforts collecting, repairing, and preserving the historical items. After restarting as the Museum Project Office in 2013, they led the facility opening at Mitaka headquarters and also developed the Basic Concept for the NAOJ Museum (tentative name).

In the last year of this six-year budget, the Museum Project Office decided to hold "The International Symposium on the NAOJ Museum" to summarize its works and efforts and to discuss the NAOJ Museum plan. The main topics of the symposium are 1) activities of each country's astronomy museums, 2) science communication methods in astronomy museums, 3) challenges of building an astronomy museum, 4) management of astronomy museums, 5) significance of astronomers interacting with visitors, 6) opportunities for future cooperation, 7) usage of visual contents in astronomy museums. A total of 96 people from nine countries participated and 25 oral presentations and 12 poster presentations were made. In addition, seven people from six locations including overseas also participated using teleconference systems.

This volume captures the essence of the symposium. A total of 31 papers are published as well as summaries of the group discussions and "The Mitaka Declaration". The Mitaka Declaration was made for improvement in the recognition of results and outcomes of Japanese space science and astronomy. It was announced on the last day of the symposium and signed by advocates.

This is the first time for PRC to hold such a large-scale international symposium. At the same time, this is a unique opportunity for astronomy outreach communities in Japan, Europe, United States, and Asian countries to meet together and to discuss museum-like activities at research institutes. Through the passionate discussions most participants recognized the importance of this kind of meeting.

The International Symposium on the NAOJ Museum would not be possible without the help and support of many people and organizations. We would like to express our deepest appreciation to the Scientific Organizing Committee (SOC) members, Local Organizing Committee (LOC) members, and NAOJ PRC staff members, all the presenters and participants. This symposium was held with President's discretion budget of NINS and with the financial support of the Foundation for Promotion of Astronomy.

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